



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Preventable Deaths in Orange County Jails. Orange County Grand Jury. June 25, 2018. 38 p.

http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/2017_2018_GJreport/2018-06-25_GJ_Jail_Deaths_Report.pdf

This paper asserts that over the past three years, nearly half of the 34 deaths at the Orange County jail could have been avoided. “The citizen group found that inmates sometimes didn’t get in-house medical treatment when necessary, weren’t diagnosed properly for pre-existing health problems or mental illness, and didn’t get outside medical help in a timely manner. Those issues in the jails, the grand jury wrote, increase the chances ‘that an inmate will not make it out alive.’... The grand jury found rampant undiagnosed illnesses, including two cases of HIV, 17 cases of Hepatitis, [and that] 14 of the 34 inmates had not been tested for tuberculosis.” ([Orange County Register](#), June 28, 2018).

ECONOMY

Inflation Expectations as a Policy Tool? By Olivier Coibion, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 24788. June 2018. 68 p.
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w24788> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California Research Bureau)

According to economic theory, inflation expectations impact firms and households' decision making processes "through their perceived interest rate, which depends not just on the nominal interest rates faced by agents but also on their expectations of future inflation." This paper discusses whether or not central banks should use inflation expectations as a policy tool to inform the general public about future economic conditions. However, there are a few caveats to this. Firstly, households and firms do not respond to monetary policy announcements during periods of low-inflation. Secondly, surveys of firms' expectations are systematically deficient.

EDUCATION

Outside Jobs for Regular, Full-Time Public School Teachers. U.S. Department of Education. June 2018. 2 p.
<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018137.pdf>

A national survey of teachers finds that overall, 18% have jobs outside their school system to supplement their base income from their regular teaching jobs. Some specific findings: 1) Nationally: "teachers earned more from jobs in another field (\$5,500) than from non-teaching jobs related to the teaching field (\$4,500)" 2) Regionally: "A higher percentage of teachers in schools in the Northeast and Midwest (both 19%) worked in a job outside their school system than teachers in schools in the South and West (both 17%)."

Seize the Data Opportunity in California: Using Chronic Absence to Improve Educational Outcomes. By Hedy Chang, et al. Attendance Works. 2018.

Report. 19 p: http://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Seize-Opportunity_final-051818.pdf

Interactive Map:

<http://ucdssoftware.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=58068386f5f648e9b40bd4c6352e4a89>

Parents and educators have a new tool for monitoring chronic absence in schools. Attendance Works and Children Now have released a study and an interactive map showing areas in California with low to severe absenteeism. Among their findings: 1) In nearly 1 in 10 traditional public schools 20% of the students are chronic absentees; 2) The largest number of traditional schools with chronic absence rates of 20% or more are elementary schools; 3) Alternative schools (continuation or opportunity schools) have high levels of school absenteeism; and 4) Rural northern California counties experience a higher percentage of schools with 20% or higher rates of chronic absence.

EMPLOYMENT

The Retirement Revolution: Regulatory Reform to Enable Behavioral Change. By Martin Neil Baily, et al. Brookings Institution. June 8, 2018. 18 p.
<https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/The-Retirement-Revolution.pdf>

"Most employers realize their employees need help in managing their assets.... but they are reluctant to take a more active role in helping current or former employees because of concerns about legal liability and regulations that make it difficult to include a full range of retirement options.... When it comes to

supporting the retirement revolution, financial regulation ... must be enabling, designed to make markets work better while providing consumers with both protection and access to the products that will bring them a more secure retirement. Barriers to the availability of insurance products should be removed, while regulators must make sure that retirees are protected against fraud, misunderstandings, and excessive fees.”

HEALTH

California End of Life Option Act 2017 Data Report. California Department of Public Health. June 2018. 7 p.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/2017EOLADataReport.pdf>

Under the California’s End of Life Option Act (EOLA), California adults diagnosed with a terminal disease may request aid-in-dying drugs from a physician. During the 2017 calendar year, 374 individuals died from ingesting aid-in-dying drugs prescribed by physicians, at a rate of 13.5 per 10,000 total deaths. Approximately 90% of these individuals were over 60 years old. The majority of illnesses were due to cancer (69%), with 9% due to neurological disorders, and 8% due to cardiovascular disease. Participants were overwhelmingly white (90%), and nearly three-quarters of participants had at least some level of college education.

HUMAN SERVICES

Potential Changes to House TANF Bill’s “Universal Engagement” Approach Would Discourage States From Helping Those With Greatest Needs. By Liz Schott, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. July 10, 2018. 8 p.

<https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/7-10-18tanf.pdf>

The purpose of this report is to analyze the potential impact of suggested changes to the House Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) bill. The proposed bill seeks to adopt a “universal engagement” approach, assess all TANF work-eligible individuals, and prescribe them with individualized opportunity plans with required work activities. However, instead of helping the parents with the greatest barriers to employment connect to work, universal engagement with strict participation requirements and potential state penalties would hurt them. A successful approach must recognize the diversity of physical and mental health needs among TANF parents, and increase resources for states to meet the new established demands.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Privacy Legislation Related to Internet Service Providers. By National Conference of State Legislatures. May 8, 2018.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/telecommunications-and-information-technology/privacy-legislation-related-to-internet-service-providers-2018.aspx>

“Close to half the states are considering measures in 2018 to restrict how internet service providers can collect or share consumer data. Many of these states introduced legislation, beginning last year, largely in response to the repeal of federal rules that would have put in place certain internet privacy protections... The rules, which had not yet gone into effect, would have placed restrictions on what internet service providers could do with consumer data collected.... At least 24 states and the District of Columbia introduced or are considering measures requiring internet or telecommunications service providers to keep specified information confidential.”

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